

TGM witness

August 2004

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Quarterly Newsletter issued by the Tennessee Government Management Institute Alumni

TGI Conference

The day all TGI alumni look forward to, is fast approaching; so circle October 26th on your calendar and make plans to attend this year's conference.

The TGI Conference will be held at the Downtown Library on October 26th. Attendees from last year will tell you that this location provides for plenty of space for reuniting with classmates and networking with other members in an atmosphere that is comfortable and inviting.

The theme of this year's conference is "Driving the Leadership Highway". The Governor has been invited to speak and currently this item is on his schedule. Commissioners from various departments have also been invited to speak and we can all look forward to the insight and inspiration they will provide.

You will be receiving announcements in the next few weeks about where and when you can pay the \$35 registration fee.

And what's a Conference without Door Prizes? Remember, you can't winIf you don't attend.

2004 TGM Steering Committee



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Chuck Holland

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Class of 2004 Orientation

Great Expectations

By Don King
Class of 2003

Anxiety and expectations ran high as the newest TGMI class of 2004 members registered and received their name badges at the beautiful public library facility in downtown Nashville. The large meeting room began to fill and members of the TGMI class of 2003 warmly welcomed the slightly nervous newcomers. Introductions were made. Coffee was poured. Apprehension began to subside. Just as our class members had been welcomed only twelve months before by the 2002 TGMI class, this time it was our turn.

A positive tone was set with opening remarks from Donna Duarte, 2004 TGMI Alumni Chairperson and Mary Taylor, Assistant Vice-President UT Institute for Public Service.

Our orientation committee had been preparing for several months. We had some definite ideas we wanted to implement, based on our experience from the previous year. Our goal was to give the 2004 class an overview of what to expect. We gathered video footage from our experience the previous summer and edited a fun video. The story line ran something like this: an aggressive investigative reporter gets wind of a story about forty state employees spending two weeks out of town at state tax payer expense. By the end of the video, the reporter realizes that TGMI is a great benefit to those fortunate enough to be chosen to attend, as well as Tennessee taxpayers. Our 2003 class president, Martin Toth, did a great job introducing and closing the video.

The class of 2004 members was formally introduced with a PowerPoint presentation given by 2003 alumni, Sue Bibb, Jean Brown, Diana Cavender, Lynn Claxton, Frank England and Christine Ferguson.

Kim Arms, Training Consultant, UT Institute for Public Service gave a curriculum overview.

Beth Pendergrass spoke to the new recruits about expectations and survival tips including a list of "Things We Wish We Had Known," from suggestions submitted by 2003 class members.

After lunch, Nat Johnson, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Personnel, inspired us all. He delivered a powerful message about the importance of our respective roles in state government and the significant part our TGMI experience would play in our careers.

Cindy Saladin, TGMI Program Director, Department of Personnel, wrapped things up and sent us forth with great expectations for the TGMI class of 2004.

Class of 2004 Week 1 at Knoxville

Reflections of a TGMI Experience

I began week one with mixture of curious anticipation and just a bit of skepticism. I'd observed members of the Class of 2003 at orientation and found it hard to believe that I, along with the other 2004 initiates would bond so readily. Yet, the effusive praise from TGMI alumni increased my eagerness to begin the TGMI experience.

As I began to interact with my class, I was impressed with the confidence and professionalism that each member exhibited. I'd never been to any training where the participants' comments, questions and insights proved just as valuable as the information being presented. There was something different about this crowd. As the week progressed, I looked forward to changing tables so that I could spend time with new folks. Each exercise provided an opportunity to learn more about my classmates. I continued to be impressed.

By the end of the week, I'd found a new circle of friends that I couldn't wait to see again. We made arrangements to work on our reflective assignments, took advantage of the TGMI brown bag lunch and many of us rode together for week 2 at Fall Creek Falls State Park. I left week 1 so thankful to be part of the Class of 2004. My classmates truly are the best of the best.

Saya Qualls
President, Class of 2004



Class of 2004 at Knoxville



Class of 2004 Week 2 at Fall Creek Falls

Reflections of a TGMI Experience

Didn't someone once say that "what doesn't kill you will make you strong"? Some of us were certainly thinking along those lines by the end of the first day as the *Eco Challenge Meets the Amazing Race* took its toll. Once our muscles, feet and other anatomy parts recovered, our adventures became the source of many good stories, laughter and memories that all went into making this one of the best and most rewarding experience of our careers.

We had a week packed with both informative and inspirational speakers that both broadened our knowledge base of state government in general and challenged us individually to explore better ways to accomplish the tasks that each of us face daily. We made new and hopefully life long friends along the way. Plus on the last day, we got the newest member of the Class of 2004, our class mascot, Big Mo. He missed all the broccoli during week 1. See Photo.

Patsy Grooms
Class Reporter, Class of 2004



And Big Mo got the name because T-Rex had already been chosen by the class of 2003 as their mascot's name. We had to read John Maxwell's book "The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership" and #16 is The Law of Big Mo (Momentum Is a Leader's Best Friend) and the speaker had put these little dinosaurs on the table.

A REFLECTION

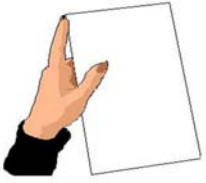
By: Steve Hovies
CLASS of 2004

I have been invited to write a reflective article on the Class of 2004's two-week initiation into TGMI. I could make this an easy task by passing on the usual accolades heard after the first week in Knoxville. There is no doubt in my mind that the previous classes echoed the same testimonials. Also, I say with no reservations, by classes that follow. Maybe, not as loud or long as 2004's echoes but nevertheless I'm sure as sincere. I would like to part from this usual format of praise and express my thoughts, observations and feelings regarding the program and overall experience.

All the knowledge that was gained or reinforced from the classroom instruction combined with the social activities was very beneficial in developing good solid managers. Social or Organizational Psychologist may call this organizational socialization, interpersonal communication, team building, team dynamics, or networking. But I truly believe that something more important took seed and grew which makes highly successful leaders. This seed is the internal bonding of the group that took place. I don't believe I have ever experienced an event where such a large number of persons from such a diverse background have bonded so deeply beyond just coworkers or associates in such a short period of time. I believe TGMI provided us with a platform for such bonding.

While I headed home from each weekly session I had mixed feelings. An empty feeling, like a family reunion, as if I was leaving people behind I would not see for a long time. The good feeling, unlike a family reunion, I wasn't really leaving them behind. It was 28 unique individuals that had become an extended family. I know I took a piece of each one away with me and hopefully I left a piece of me with them. Why? Because they're like family.

Steve Hovies.....



Donna's Comments

Have you seen the Spider-Man 2 movie? Well, it is not the best movie I have ever seen, but with an 8 year old, it was better than most. The overriding plot of the movie was the commitment required by Spider-Man/Peter Parker. When Spider-Man was being the super hero and chief crime fighter, he was great, always the winner! But he was not always Spider-Man; he was also mild-mannered Peter Parker. And as Peter Parker, he was behind with his paperwork in college and he often missed personal appointments with his friends. In these dual roles, he had time management issues. Can you relate?

As a TGMler, I already know that you are a 'super-manager'. I know that everything is great in your office. You and your team partners always win! There is no job too large or too difficult for your team. Everyone works together, almost like clockwork to achieve success. There is never any difficulty in completing tasks or working in harmony. But how about when you are supposed to be the mild-mannered regular guy or girl? Do you feel like your role as 'super-manager' dwarfs the other parts of you? Are you a little off-center?

Well thankfully, most people do not feel off-center and they are truly the 'super-managers'...time managers that is. Occasionally, I bring home paperwork. Sometimes I work on it after my son is in bed. Other times, I wake up earlier and work on it before 'normal' wake up time. Sometimes I wake in from my dreams worried about the status of it (generally when I don't take it out of my briefcase)! None of us should be constant 'super-managers', but it is our responsibility to be good time managers. That may mean learning how to prioritize or delegate. It may mean pruning your other responsibilities or even your staff. You know, cutting out the dead stuff or staff that is not growing or thriving. It might mean saying no to a new task or thinking outside the box to find a new method to deal with an old issue. Then you know what happens? You have more time to be mild-mannered _____ (insert your name here). You don't lose sleep working or worrying about work. You enjoy a campy movie with your significant other or an 8 year old. You find time for yourself to exercise, create works of art, do some yard work, cook, or what ever turns you on. You enjoy the company of others, talk to your family more, visit with friends, and write letters or e-mails.

Back to the Spider-Man 2 movie, Spider-Man won the battle over the evil Dr. Ock and saved his girlfriend, who promptly got married to someone else. Well, actually, she ran out on her wedding and reappeared at Peter Parker's apartment, but then the Spider-Man duties called. I think Spider-Man 3 will probably pick up there. Don't worry I will see it – time management issues and all, because I have an 8 year old.

Adjust the sail!

Donna



One of the best reasons for being a graduate of TGMI is the great friends you made. We now have 129 graduates from five classes. As the association grows, it becomes harder to stay in touch with each other, and this is where the newsletter has the ability to keep us informed.

So as the editor, I would like to make two points. First, you need to keep your Class Reporter notified of changes in your life that you want to share with others. These changes can be promotions, change in departments, awards, new babies or grandbabies, loved ones overseas, etc.

Here are the Class Reporters and their email addresses:

2000 Chuck Holland	Chuck.C.Holland@state.tn.us
2001 Barbara Sampson	Barbara.Sampson@state.tn.us
2002 Melvin Jones	Melvin.Jones@state.tn.us
2003 Don King	Don.King@state.tn.us
2004 Patsy Grooms	Patsy.Grooms@state.tn.us

When they send out a request for information for the newsletter, please respond quickly. We want to hear from you!

And second, you need to keep your demographics current in the TGMI website because our website will be the primary tool used to share information. The website is at <http://www.state.tn.us/personnel/>. Click on the link to Tennessee Government Management Institute, and at the TGMI website, click on Alumni Directory. Enter your social security number and password. At the Alumni Information Directory, pull down your name, and click on search. To change your personal data, click on Demographics (in the lower left corner). When you are finished, click on Update. Please make sure that you keep your state email address current, because this will be used to notify the alumni of upcoming events. If you want to be included in communications, it is your responsibility to keep your demographics updated.

Chuck Holland
Vice-Chair
TGMI Class of 2000



2000 Class Notes

Melody Proffitt is now the Family Assistance District Director of Davidson County Dept. of Human Services.

George Womack has moved to Mental Retardation and is working in the Administrative Services fiscal area.

Dave Remke was promoted to the Director of Special Investigations for the Department of Revenue on May 1, 2004.

Chuck Holland moved to the Office of Business and Finance in the Department of Finance and Administration as the Budget Analyst Coordinator effective August 1, 2004.

Gary Tullock has been promoted to State Director of Field Services for the Board of Probation and Parole and relocated to Nashville effective 8/16/04. His new office is at 404 James Robertson Parkway, Suite 1410.

Nancy Patterson's husband, Major Marty Patterson, is home now from Iraq for good with the Lebanon, TN 168th MP BN. Nancy's third baby is due December 11th.

"Cindy Murdock-Elliott was promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Client Services in February, 2004."

From Ray Lyons: "Just wanted to say HELLO and to update you on some recent changes in my career track. I retired from state government on 6-30-04 which was a very tough decision and I began a new job as the Executive Director of the Northeast Community Services Agency located in Johnson City."

A graphic of a rolled-up scroll with the text "2001 Class Notes" written on it in a green, serif font.

2001 Class Notes

Donna Duarte was promoted on June 1 to Director of Program Compliance at the Tennessee Housing Development Agency.

Pete Napatalung is the new Fiscal Officer for the Office of the Attorney General and Reporter. Pete started his new job on April 16, 2004. He is responsible for accounting and budget.

A graphic of a rolled-up scroll with the text "2002 Class Notes" written on it in a green, serif font.

2002 Class Notes

Darrell Moore has been appointed by the Tennessee Department of Transportation Civil Rights Office to serve on the Title VI Advisory Board for 2004 - 2006. The board serves as a monitoring entity for all TDOT Title VI activities.

Lewis DeBoard has been promoted from Coordinator of the Telecommunications Devices Access Program to a Rate Specialist with the Tennessee Regulatory Authority's Telecommunications Division.



2003 Class Notes

Jim Waters and his wife, Susan, and son, Avery, proudly welcomed Aiden Vaughn to their family on Sunday, August 8, 2004. He weighed in at eight pounds and was 20 inches long.

Leslie Tipton Humphries has accepted a position with the Tennessee Department of Health. She began her duties there on July 1, 2004.

Jon Zirkle has completed his Masters Program through the University of Tennessee Distance Education in May. His MS degree is in Civil Engineering. Way to go, Jon.

After four years at the Board of Probation and Parole, Christine Ferguson accepted a position at the Department of Human Services.



As the Chief Engineer for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Water Pollution Control, Saya coordinates the engineering functions within the division and oversees the management of the wastewater permitting, industrial pretreatment and plans review. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering, is married, with one son, one daughter, two cats and one dog. Saya teaches 1st grade Sunday school at Franklin Christian Church, and was recently elected Tennessee Vice President for the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Environment Association Enjoy. She enjoys working out at the YMCA and spending time with family and friends. Saya is a gymnastics mom, basketball mom, baseball mom, softball mom and lacrosse mom. She was born in Paducah, Kentucky and now resides in Nolensville, TN.

MOST MEMORABLE TGMI EXPERIENCE: “Being elected president of the 2004 class by 28 of the most effective, capable people that I’ve ever encountered.”

WISHES FOR NEW TGMI MEMBERS: “That you enter TGMI like sponges so that you can soak up as much of the information presented as possible.”

WHAT YOU WISH YOU COULD BE DOING: “Right now, I’d like to be walking along the beach (any beach) with the surf flowing over my feet.”

Brown bag lunch at TRICOR

On July 28, about forty alumni met at the corporate headquarters of TRICOR. Pat Weiland, Executive Director, welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the mission of TRICOR. Greta Beard, Class of 2004, gave everyone “the grand tour” of the showroom, and Les Allen, Class of 2000, gave a tour of one of the operations in the warehouse. Everyone had a great time.



Brown bag lunch at the Capitol

I would like to start by saying how great it was to see those that were able to make it to the class lunch at the Capitol on Thursday, August 5, 2004 ...I thank Patrick Merkel and Alan Whittington for volunteering to host the lunch, and also Julie Perrey for organizing another great get together. I'd like to also thank Chuck Holland, TGMI Steering Committee Vice-Chair, for attending our lunch and representing the Steering Committee so well...As always the lunch was fun and the company was wonderful!!!
Marty Toth Class President 2003.



Mark your calendar for upcoming events

The 2nd Annual TGMI Holiday Breakfast will be on Friday morning, December 3, 2004. Julie Perrey will be sending emails regarding the place and time.

TGEI/TGMI Promotional Item Survey Results- Patsy Grooms, Class of 2004, reports that one hundred ninety alumni responded to the survey conducted earlier this summer by TRICOR. DOP has decided to go forth with the experiment and plans are being developed to kick off the EI/MI Promotional Accessories Program at the TGI Fall Conference. The top 10 items will only be available for a limited purchase time and based upon participation, may or may not be offered again. More details to follow.

WE WIPE TEARS FROM OUR EYES



*In white, In blue, In red
For those here
And those who said
I will make that sacrifice
I will go into that good night
We wipe our eyes
Hear words so clear
Like meteors through the atmosphere
As rockets fly in red glare
We look with pride in humble stare
As bombs burst in the air
We can see
Or we are led
'Tween white marble lines
Bounded by hedge
Tears for those who would
See their loved ones again
To those who would come to their end
We salute Independence Day
Bright sunshine, overcast gray
We look to the hills
Of Washington
Of Hancock and Thomas Jefferson
To celebrate
Commemorate souls set free
"Oh, say can you see"
They walk now on hallowed ground
And we light fires safe and sound
Now here on this side
We strain to peer cross the great divide
Star Spangled chests puffed out with pride
As we wipe tears from our eyes*

